2010-104 AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES—California's Charter Schools, Nutrition Program

The audit by the Bureau of State Audits will provide independently developed and verified information related to the nutritional programs offered by charter schools, and would include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.

2. Using the most current data available, determine the number of traditional public school students eligible for free and reduced price meals compared to the number of students eligible for such meals in charter schools, to the extent the data is available. Further, to the extent possible, determine the number of charter school students currently participating in federal school nutrition programs, such as the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs.

3. Identify the charter schools that provide meals, but do not participate in federal nutrition programs. For a sample of those schools, determine the following:

   a. The types of alternative nutrition programs offered by the schools and how they are delivered.

   b. For each alternative nutrition program identified, determine the cost of meals to low-income students.

   c. Whether these alternative nutrition programs meet or exceed the nutritional standards that apply to traditional public schools. If not, determine the nutritional standards these programs follow.

   d. The reasons for choosing the methods the charter schools employed to provide alternative nutrition programs to their students.

4. Identify the charter schools that do not provide meals. For a sample of those schools, determine the following:

   a. How the schools accommodate the nutritional needs of low-income students.

   b. The reasons the schools cite for not providing meals, including any barriers that exist.

5. Survey key stakeholders on whether they believe charter schools are adequately providing nutrition to low-income students eligible for free or reduced price meals.